

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR EFFICIENTLY USING VIDEO
ENCODING RESOURCES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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A system and method efficiently use available video encoding resources when automatic machine recognition (e.g., barcode reading and optical character recognition) does not successfully resolve information needed for handling articles. The system includes at least one programmable processor operatively coupled to an imaging device (e.g., a camera or optical sensor) that is capable of producing an electronic image of an article and to one or more video coding stations. If the imaging device does not resolve information needed for handling an article, it is determined whether an estimated time for video coding exceeds a determined threshold. If the estimated time for video coding does not exceed the determined threshold, or if the video coding station is not busy, then image data for the unresolved information is sent to the video coding station for review and manual entry by an operator.

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